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and difficulty in investigation. It should have its representatives in every town and county throughout the country, in close touch with local staffs, as well as a headquarters staff and provincial district staffs in the large centers of population. The feeling fostered by the imperfections of the present system, or want of system, would thus disappear, and much grave and organized crime would be prevented by the mere fact of its more assured detection."

At last we have an English writer who is frank enough to admit some of the glaring faults of the English police system. In a small country like Great Britain active co-operation is a comparatively simple affair. The means of escape are few and the country small and compact; every stranger is known, and there is a hearty co-operation on the part of the public with the authorities. Not so in the United States of America, with its complex population of different nationalities; the country is so large that the means of escape are innumerable and an easy task to the intelligent criminal. In Massachusetts we have the State Police called the District Police; this is an independent force appointed by the governor, and the members are assigned to duty in the different counties. They actively co-operate and assist the local police in detecting criminals and convicting felons, and there has never been, in my memory, the slightest friction between them and the various police departments. A detective who allows personal pride to militate against the detection of crime and the conviction of thieves is, to my mind, a very poor type of officer and a misfit in his position. The state of Rhode Island has been sadly in need of just such a system as has been in vogue in Massachusetts for generations. It is absolutely necessary that police intelligence should keep pace with the strides which I am sorry to say criminal intelligence is making every day. A great deal of poor detective work could be avoided if we could get the station house police out of their useless rut; the average station house can do a great deal of good to the community if it devoted more attention to thieves, and less to unfortunate prostitutes, ten-cent card players, and other trifling misdemeanants who are really their own worst enemies and at heart not a menace to society.

JOSEPH MATTHEW SULLIVAN, Boston, Mass.

**"New York's Campaign of Crime Prevention"**—[In the *Boston Evening Transcript* for February 5, 1916, is a four-column article under the above title, by Arthur Woods, the Police Commissioner for New York City, whose administration thus far has been characterized by a practical idealism and good results. The following is abstracted from the article referred to.—Ed.]

Degeneracy and perverted mentality or instincts have received direct dealing. Among results have been the apprehension and sending away in custody of a number of perverts. In the lower courts physicians and alienists have been provided to determine the normality or abnormality of prisoners brought to the bar—whether they are cases for medical treatment or for punishment. In the police department we have just established a psychopathic laboratory for the purpose of discovering and sorting out and putting away cases of mental and moral deficiency. Some of the cases showed gross deficiency; other defectives had confirmed criminal habits, while in others the indications were simply arrested development and consequent lack of sense of responsibility.

Procedure is something like this: Psychological experts, recruited from the universities, look over the lineup of prisoners every morning, and advise the officers of the department. Along with the evidence of brass-knucks, guns and other deodands, and testimony of eye-witnesses, the police then submit to the magistrates in the police courts a psychological analysis of the prisoners. Psychologists also give general information to officers of the department as to the mental discretion or loose proclivities in prisoners. Lectures are given at headquarters by Dr. Louis E. Bisch, associate in psychology at Columbia University, explaining "Mental and Moral Defectives," etc. Two trained psychologists are under salary, and they are counselled by a voluntary advisory board of experts.

Because one murderer got across a ferry one-half hour ahead of our policemen on his trial, we missed catching him—so far. The police did quick work, but it should have been one-half hour quicker; so we have been endeavoring to speed up the whole department, to cut down the time for sending out general alarms, and to reduce the number of general alarms, so that only really important fugitives shall be occupying the attention of the police. In outlying districts we have placed sentry boxes—since some beats are so long that one man can scarcely cover them by patrol. He stands in the sentry box. Neighboring citizens have its telephone number, and use it when they need a policeman just as they use a firm alarm box. On getting an alarm the policeman on sentry duty mounts his motorcycle and dashes to the scene. If he wants help he phones to another sentry.

On the technique of detection and aids in pursuit, I might remark that we for one thing are becoming more and more a finger print office. Paris could have caught the Mona Lisa thief had she relied more on the finger print than on the Bertillon system of identification. We still maintain the Bertillon system of measurements because all cities are not equipped with finger print records. Did all the police agencies outside of New York employ the finger print system of identification it would not be necessary to employ another method. Finger print identification is the surest, quickest, cheapest and the simplest way of identifying criminals that has ever been devised. As long, however, as the photograph method and the Bertillon system of measurements is used in cities other than New York. It becomes necessary for the New York detective bureau to continue both of these methods in order that we may exchange information with other cities and cause the arrest in one city of a man wanted in another city which does not employ the finger print system.

Captain Sweeney of the Fifteenth precinct organized a squad of "boy cops," in the expectation that the dignity conferred upon them will help clear the district of street bonfires and crap games. The officer who instructed them to meet for drill also suggested that they should try to discourage the use of cigarettes and profane language by the boss of the neighborhood. It has been objected that it was a "mistake to encourage the boys to undertake any such meddlesome and intolerable activity as would be sure to result from this project; that their zeal would more than overbalance their possible good intentions, and that a 'boy cop' would never feel that he was actually so equipped until he had a club." How has it worked out? The boy cops have developed a habit of disciplining

themselves, and inculcated in other youngsters a realization of what things should not be done because they make for disorder.

Now what have we done to interest the policeman in his vocation, and to induce him to make himself useful and advance his professional prospects?

Formerly, if a patrolman had a grievance, it was difficult to bring it to the notice of the commissioner. At present members of the force desiring to interview the police commissioner may do so upon application directed to the police commissioner. Knowing that they are being treated as individuals and not as uniformed figures scarcely distinguished from one another the men are working with more interest. They come and tell me troubles of all varieties. Some are in debt, others want advice how to handle themselves in particular situations, and many even have come to confess that they have lied at police trials and want to get it off their conscience.

Among new advantages is permission of patrolmen to apply for transfer. For instance, if a man is doing duty in a precinct away from his home, and another patrolman who resides near where the first patrolman is doing duty, is performing duty near where the second patrolman resides, a mutual exchange may be asked for. Members upon their own application are transferred to precincts as near their home as possible. No "pull" is needed to effect this. Requests are filed according to date of application and acted upon as soon as possible. Giving a man a district he knows lessens minor disorders.

Formerly when a policeman was ailing it was impossible for him to receive full pay until such time as he was physically capable of performing a full tour of patrol. Such men may now return to duty and be assigned to raided premises, clerical work, station house attendance and other light work, with full pay till fit to resume patrol.

An important recent change was that of placing patrolmen on probation for a period instead of fining them. It was contended that where a patrolman committed a breach of discipline and was fined, a hardship was worked upon the immediate family dependant upon him for support. The probation period is a period within which by noteworthy performance of duty one may earn a suspension of any fine that might have been inflicted. We have found serviceable an Honor Roll Relief Fund, which gives aid to the widows, orphans and dependants of members of the force killed in the discharge of their duty. Formerly individual collections were taken up in station houses from members of the force and an uneven distribution of relief resulted.

Physical comfort and betterment have been looked after. Shower baths, toilets and wash basins have been provided on the floors of the dormitories occupied by the men, instead of in the cellar. Most station houses are today provided with gymnasiums, including handball courts. Many are furnished with libraries, and we expect to so equip all the larger ones.

As an incentive to better policing, we instituted the medal of merit, with departmental recognition for exceptional merit, commendable merit and meritorious police duty, which are given for unusual judgment and presence of mind in grave emergency or under conditions out of the

ordinary. In these awards recognition is for merit outside the old classification, which recognized valor only. Suggestions tending to improve the efficiency of the department also receive merit awards. In several precincts a system is being tested which provides certain merits and demerits for various phases of police work. For instance, a patrolman who lessens the number of complaints on his post, who makes arrests showing intelligence or risk, receives a certain number of merits in each case. For failure to prevent crime, failure to make arrests, improper patrol, etc., demerits are marked against him.

In the establishment of efficiency records, it was provided that the men receiving the three highest number of merits monthly, should be excused (1) from three tours of patrol duty; (2) from two hours of patrol duty, and (3) from one tour of patrol duty. In addition to these excusings, at the end of the year the officer will receive an additional six days' vacation.

One-half the time lost in court on a tour off duty is returned to the patrolman by excusing him for that period from the next tour of reserve duty. A night or day off is given to every patrolman in case of a good arrest for a felony involving personal risk. This is in addition to any other award. Another incentive lies in promoting men to acting detective sergeants and increasing salaries of members of the force assigned to the special squads, inspection district offices, and heads of the detective bureau branches.

### STATISTICS.

**An Eight-Year Increase in the Cost of Crime in Ohio.**—The following figures relative to the cost of delinquency in Ohio have been prepared from the "Comparative Statistics for the Counties and Cities of Ohio," published and held as manuscript by the Bureau of Inspection and Supervision of Public Offices. The report of 1906 is the first of this sort published in Ohio. The manuscript reports from city and county auditors for 1914 constitute the latest complete returns for a year. The data for state expenses for the four correctional institutions were found in the "Ohio Bulletin of Charities and Correction," Vol. 14, No. 4, and Vol. 21, No. 2.

The year, in each case, for cities ended December 31; for counties, August 31; and for state institutions, November 15. The figures, in each case, cover a full year, the largest part of which was in the calendar year designated. There is no overlapping of the city, county, and state expenses. The expenditures are net in every case, all income being already deducted.

It is impossible to make a clear-cut separation of expenses on account of crime, because of the manner in which the data have been assembled, and because of the mixture of criminal and other actions in the same offices. For instance, the salaries of judges of common pleas courts and of sheriffs are not wholly chargeable to crime. We charged all expenses of the common pleas courts and of sheriffs and prosecuting attorney's offices to crime, but made no charges of the probate court. This court incurs expenses on account of crime. We made no charges for maintenance of court houses and jails. This item in 1906 amounted to \$528,147.36, and in 1914 to \$1,011,517.14, an increase of ninety-two per cent. All of the jail and much of the court house